SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 523
SEPT.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DON'T PANIC, STEVE! I'LL SAVE YOU FROM THIS ALIEN MONSTER!
COOL IT, SUPERMAN! OL' SIX-EYES HERE IS MY BROTHER!
GIORDANO
ACTION PLUS
WITH THE ATOM
INK
70989 30410 09

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME"... ON A FINE SUMMER AFTERNOON LIKE THIS ONE, THAT'S A REFRAIN COMMONLY SUNG BY WOULD-BE REGGIE JACKSONS, YOUNG AND OLD..
AND IF YOU'RE AN EX-JOCK TV NEWSCASTER LIKE STEVE LOMBARD, THAT SONG IS A CALL TO ACTION--
--SIGNALING THE BEGINNING OF YET ANOTHER SEASON OF GLORY FOR THE GALAXY ALL-STARS...
I'VE BEEN GONE FOR EXACTLY 1/800TH OF A SECOND--
--LONG ENOUGH FOR STEVE TO COMPLETE HIS PITCH!
NO ONE'S HAD TIME TO MISS ME--I HOPE!
STEVE LOMBARD'S DOUBLE LIFE!
GERRY CONWAY writer
CURT SWAN penciller
FRANK CHIARAMONTE inker
COSTANZA letterer
G.D'ANGELO colorist
JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor

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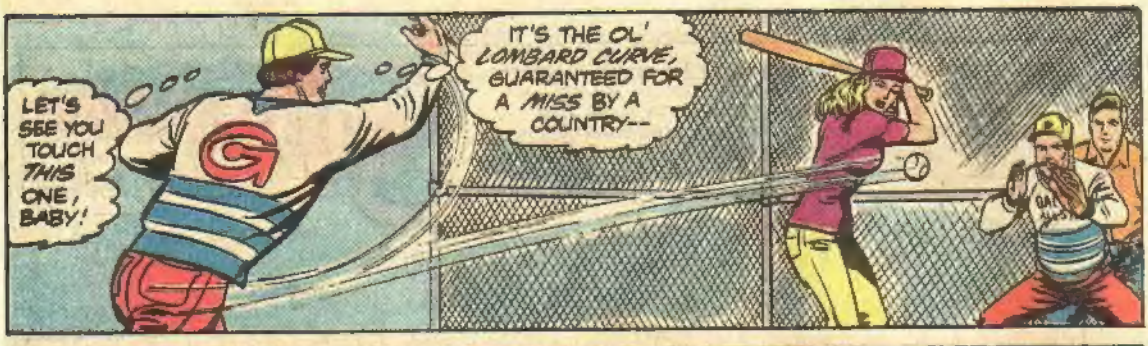

LET'S SEE YOU TOUCH THIS ONE, BABY!
IT'S THE OL' LOMBARD CURVE, GUARANTEED FOR A MISS BY A COUNTRY--

--MILE?!
TOK
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHO'S IN LEFT FIELD?
OH NO, DON'T TELL ME... KENT!

EXACTLY 2/1000 THS OF A SECOND AGO--
I'VE BEEN GONE SO BRIEFLY, CLARK KENT'S UNIFORM HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO DROP TO THE GROUND!
CLARKIE, YOU DUMB CLUCK, THE BALL... CATCH THE BALL!
UH--BALL? WHAT BALL?
BOP
THAT BALL, YOU FIVE-THUMBED NITWIT!
ARRGH, I'M GONNA KILL HIM! I SWEAR I'LL KILL HIM!
GALAXY ALL-STARS
2

DID SOMETHING HIT ME, LANA?
WHY, LUV? ARE YOUR BRAINS BRUISED?
HONESTLY, CLARK, IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE GAME, WHY BOTHER PLAYING AT ALL?
GALAXY ALL-STARS

I'LL TELL YOU WHY HE'S HERE-- JUST TO HUMILIATE ME!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SCORE IS, CLARKIE-BOY?
14 TO 2 IN FAVOR OF THOSE AMA-ZONS!
GALAXY ALL-STARS

YOU MEAN THE PLAYGATE GLAMOUR GIRLS? WELL, GOSH, STEVE, THEY ARE PLAYING AWFULLY WELL...
COCKTAIL WAITRESSES! WE'RE BEING BEATEN BY COCKTAIL WAITRESSES!
C'MON, STEVE, IT'S ONLY A GAME!
GALAXY ALL-STARS

I'M GONNA PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT, LANE!
GALAXY ALL-STARS

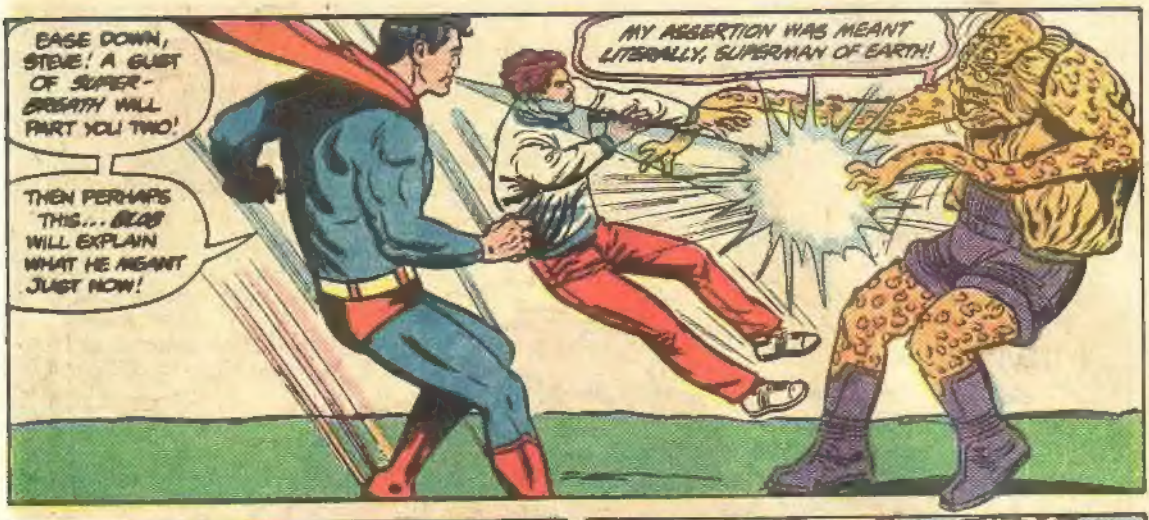
EVERYBODY BACK TO THEIR POSITIONS! IT'S ONLY THE BOTTOM OF THE EIGHTH. MAYBE WE CAN RALLY!
POOR STEVE! HE'S TAKING THIS PRETTY HARD!
GALAXY ALL-STARS

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT, JIMMY! I DON'T PLAY THAT WELL.
I WISH THE REST OF YOU HADN'T TALKED STEVE INTO TAKING ME ONTO THE TEAM...
WE TOLD HIM THERE WOULDN'T BE A TEAM WITHOUT YOU, CLARK!
STEVE TAKES THESE THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY!
GALAXY ALL-STARS
3

I'M JUST GLAD THAT PLAYING LEFT FIELD AS CLARK KENT HASN'T INTERFERED WITH MY DUTIES AS SUPERMAN!
I WAS ABLE TO RESCUE A FALLING CONSTRUCTION WORKER ON A HI-RISE, AND STILL GET BACK HERE IN A SPLIT-SECOND...
...WITH NO ONE THE WISER!
EVEN SO, DOING THIS EVERY AFTERNOON MIGHT HAMPER MY--EH?
STRIKE ONE!
WHAT IS THAT? AN OVAL OF LIGHT... HOVERING IN THE AIR BEHIND THE PITCHER'S MOUND?
EVIDENTLY EVERYONE SEES IT BUT STEVE!
THIS IS ANOTHER JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
HUH? WHAT'S EVERYONE GAPING AT?
S-STEVE... BEHIND YOU...
ALL RIGHT, WHAT'S THE GAG?! I LOOK BEHIND ME AND SOMEBODY DROPS ICE DOWN MY COLLAR, RIGHT?
OKAY, I'M A SPORT. I'LL LOO--LOO--LOO --LUGGH!
GAAHH! IT-- IT'S HORRIBLE! GO 'WAY!
PLEASE... SOMEBODY... MAKE IT GO AWAY!
CANNOT GO AWAY. HAVE COME FROM A FAR-DISTANT WORLD TO FIND YOU!
DO YOU NOT KNOW ME--
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

--BROTHER?
AWWWK!
SOMEBODY--
ANYBODY--
GET ME
OUTTA HERE!
GREAT RAO, THAT THING CALLED STEVE HIS BROTHER?!?
IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF INTERPLANETARY JOKE--
--IT'S IN TERRIBLE TASTE!
5


EASE DOWN, STEVE! A GUST OF SUPER-BREATH WILL PART YOU TWO!
MY ASSERTION WAS MEANT LITERALLY, SUPERMAN OF EARTH!
THEN PERHAPS THIS... BLOB WILL EXPLAIN WHAT HE MEANT JUST NOW!

IT... AIE CLAIMS THAT HE AND STEVE ARE BROTHERS--LITERALLY?
I ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD A FAR-OUT PERSONALITY, STEVE...; GABBLE E BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
HAVE YOUR LAUGH, LOIS! OBVIOUSLY THIS CREEP IS CRAZY!

I AM NO MORE RELATED TO HIM THAN I AM TO A JELLY-ROLL!
LOOK CLOSELY, BROTHER...

SURELY YOU SEE A CERTAIN "FAMILY RESEMBLANCE"?
GA'AAK!
GALAXY ALL-STARS

I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK! OLSEN... GET ME BACK TO THE GALAXY BUILDING!
DO THAT, JIMMY. I WANT A WORD WITH STEVE'S... "BROTHER"!

SUPERMAN OF EARTH, HE MUST NOT GO! I CAME HERE ON AN URGENT MISSION!
REALLY--? TELL ME ABOUT IT! AND START WITH HOW YOU KNOW WHO I AM!
6

YOU ARE KNOWN TO ALL CIVILIZED BEINGS IN THIS GALAXY!
THUS, I TURN TO YOU FOR AID IN PURSUING MY CLAIM.
WHAT CLAIM?
SUPERMAN OF EARTH, I AM DYING!
GALAXY
THERE IS A HORMONIAL EXTRACT PRODUCED IN THE ARTORBA GLANDS OF MY RACE, NECESSARY FOR CONTINUED SURVIVAL!
SCANNING YOU WITH X-RAY VISION...
MY GLANDS HAVE CEASED TO MANUFACTURE THIS SUBSTANCE!
...BUT I CAN'T FIND A THING WRONG WITH YOU!
IN MY PRESENT FORM, OF COURSE! JUST AS STEVE LOMBARD IS!
INTERNALLY, YOU'RE A HUMAN BEING!
WHEN HE WAS LEFT ON THIS WORLD...
GALAXY ALL-STARS
...HIS BODY WAS ALTERED TO RESEMBLE A HUMAN'S! THIS WAS TO HELP HIS BEING ACCEPTED BY YOUR KIND!
HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED LOOKING LIKE--THAT!
UGGH!
GALAXY ALL-STARS
OUR POD-PARENTS COULD NOT RAISE MY BROTHER THEMSELVES... AND ON MY WORLD IT IS AN UNFORGIVABLE SOCIAL SIN TO REFUSE SUCH AN OBLIGATION!
THUS, THEY WERE FORCED TO FIND ANOTHER HOME...
"...ON ANOTHER WORLD! THEY CAME TO YOUR EARTH, WHOSE PEOPLE ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.
"IN ONE OF YOUR MEDICAL ESTAB-LISHMENTS, THEY FOUND A BABY WHO HAD BEEN STILLBORN...

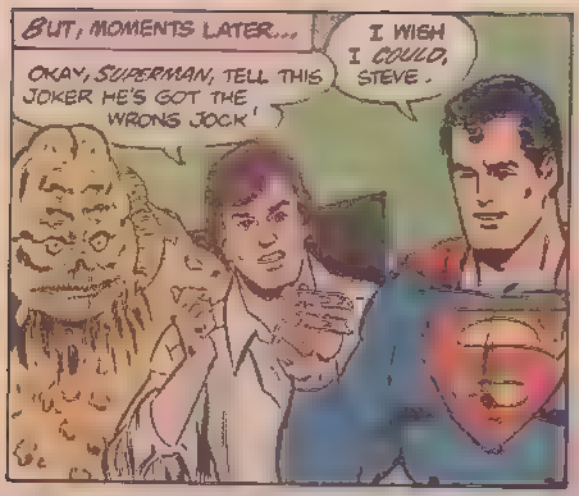
"... AND BY A DEFT FORGING OF HOSPITAL DOCUMENTS, THEY REPLACED THIS STILLBORN CHILD WITH MY BROTHER, WHOM YOU CALL STEPHEN LOMBARD."

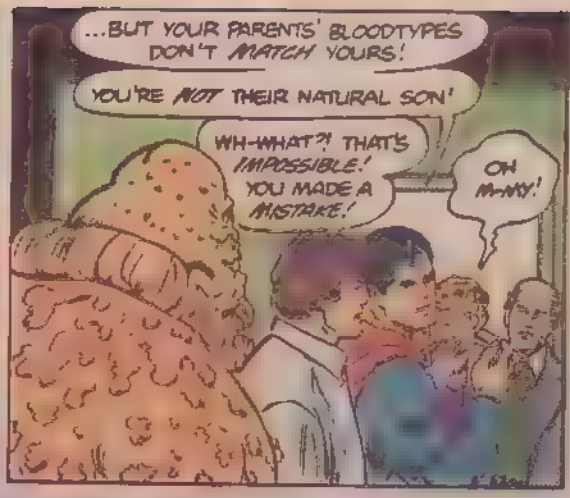
SAY, ASHERMAN, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS STUFF?
SORRY, PERRY--BEING A TV SCIENCE EDITOR DOESN'T GIVE ME THE EXPERTISE TO JUDGE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS -- DOES SUPERMAN BELIEVE IT?
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME STEVE LOMBARD IS SOME KIND OF EXTRA-PLANETARY CHANGELING!
PUT YOUR WAY... YES!

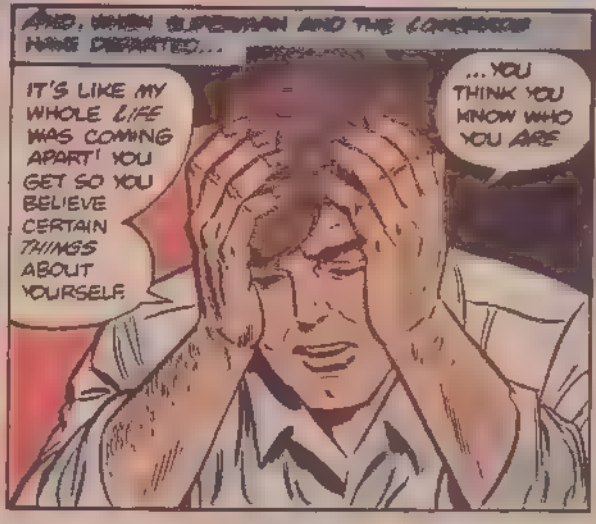
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

FOR A WHILE THERE, I THOUGHT SOME ALIEN WACKO HAD POPPED OUT OF A HOLE IN THE SKY...
...AND THAT HE'D TRIED TO TELL ME HE WAS MY BROTHER!
I MUST BE WORKING TOO HARD. I NEED A REST!
STEVEY BOY, MIND TELLING US WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
OH, HI, DAD. HI, MOM.
"HI, DAD"--?
SPLT TRFFH
MOM, DAD-- WHAT-- HOW-- WHY--
EASY, BABY, DON'T TALK SO FAST! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF.
I BROUGHT YOUR PARENTS HERE TO SETTLE A QUESTION, STEVE!
IF THEY REALLY ARE YOUR NATURAL PARENTS, YOUR BLOOD WILL MATCH!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? OF COURSE, STEVEY IS OUR LITTLE BOY!
HE MAY NOT BE SO LITTLE NOW, MOTHER... BUT YOU'RE RIGHT AS ALWAYS.
WILL
THIS
THEN
PROVE
IT!
HEY, THAT'S MY MOM YOU'RE TAKING BLOOD--
WE'LL KNOW THAT FOR CERTAIN IN A MOMENT, STEVE.
A MOTHER'S USED TO SUFFERING.
THANK YOU, MRS. LOMBARD.
9


BUT, MOMENTS LATER...
I WISH I COULD, STEVE.
OKAY, SUPERMAN, TELL THIS JOKER HE'S GOT THE WRONG JOCK!


...BUT YOUR PARENTS' BLOODTYPES DON'T MATCH YOURS!
YOU'RE NOT THEIR NATURAL SON!
WH-WHAT?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU MADE A MISTAKE!
OH M-MY!

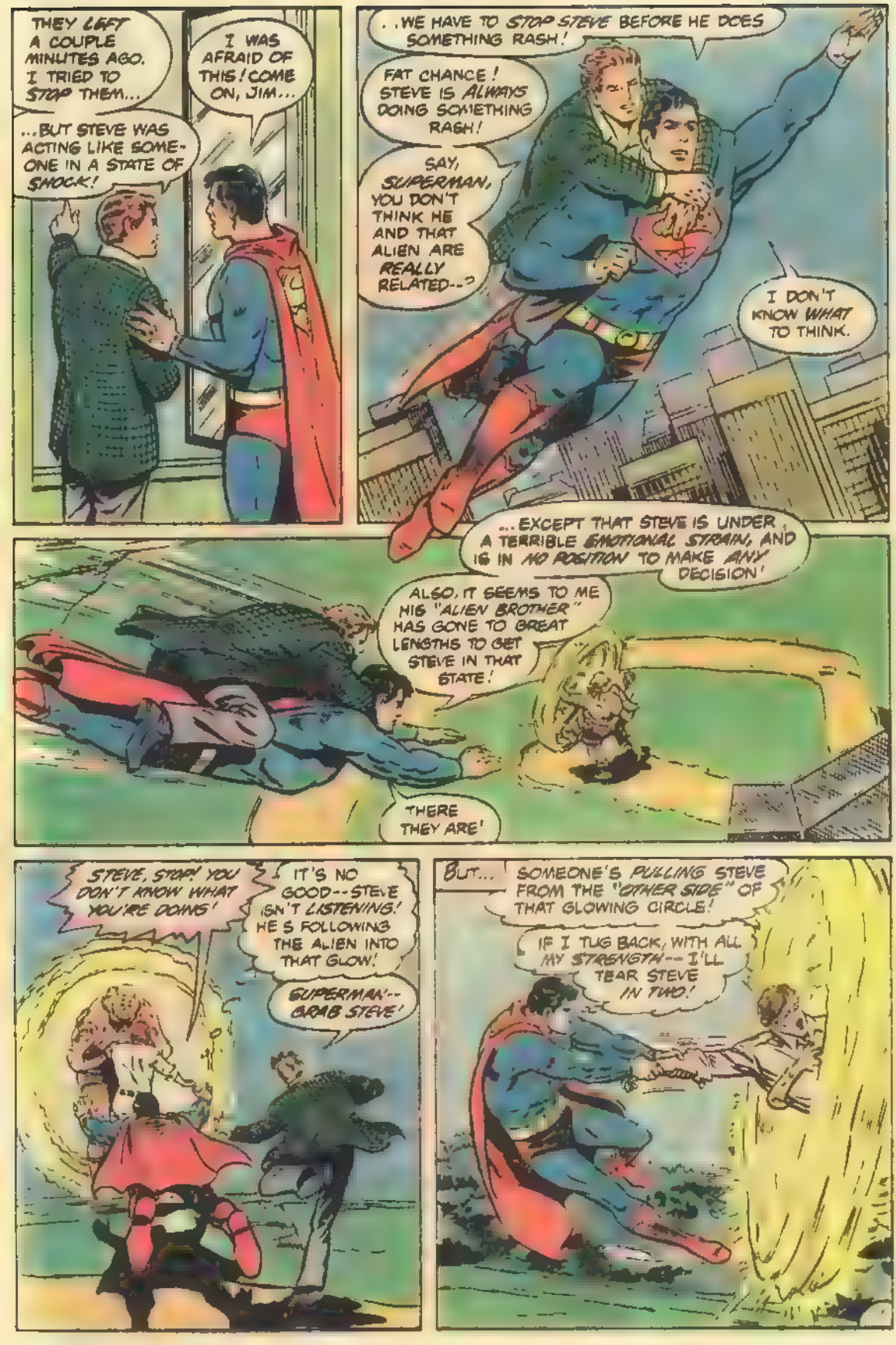
AM I GOING NUTS? THIS IS A CRAZY DREAM OR SOMETHING!
TAKE IT EASY, STEVE!
MR. AND MRS. LOMBARD, I'D BETTER TAKE YOU HOME.
OHHH M-MY!

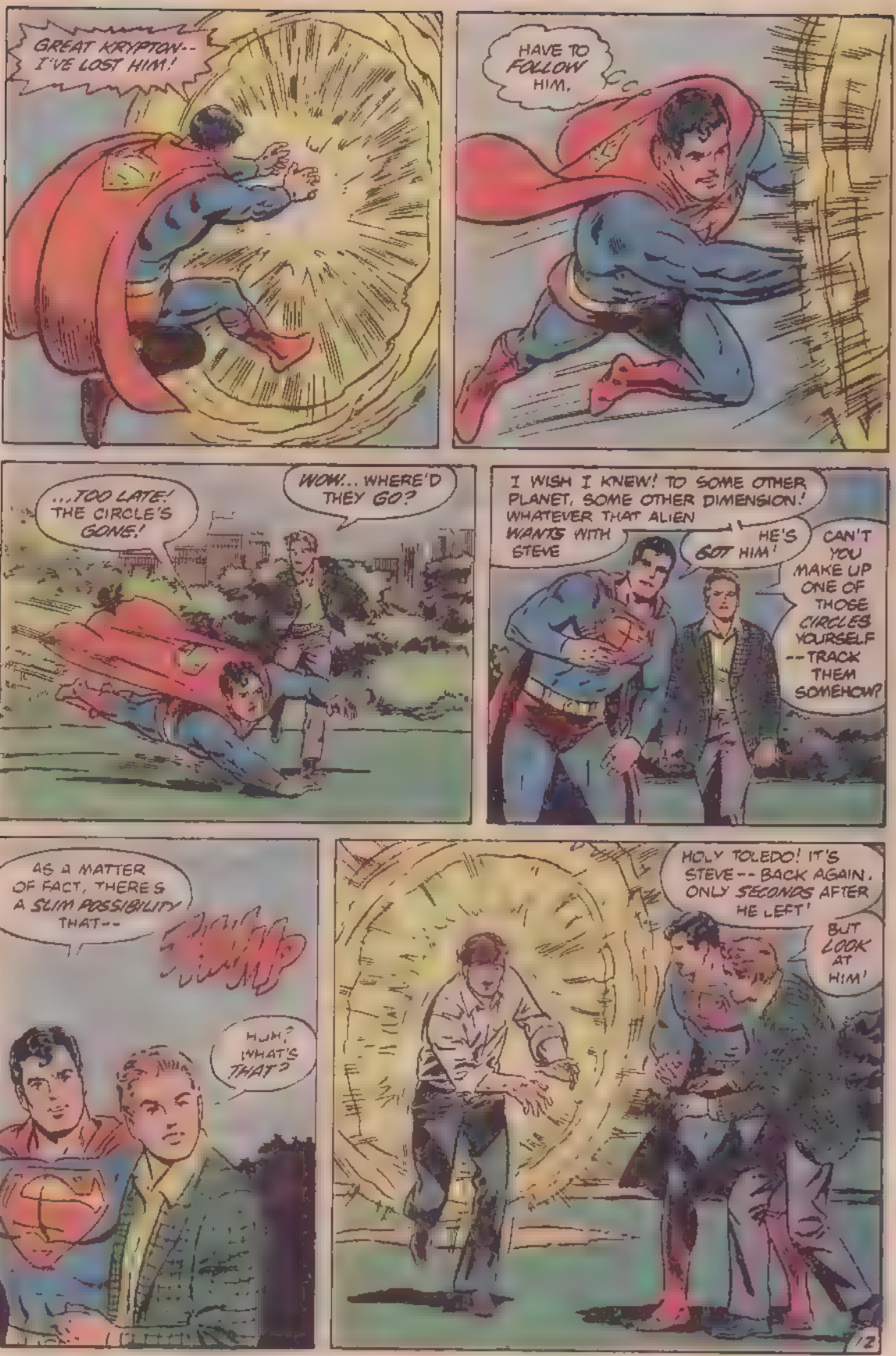

AND, WHEN SUPERMAN AND THE LOMBARDS HAVE DEPARTED...
IT'S LIKE MY WHOLE LIFE WAS COMING APART! YOU GET SO YOU BELIEVE CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF.
...YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE

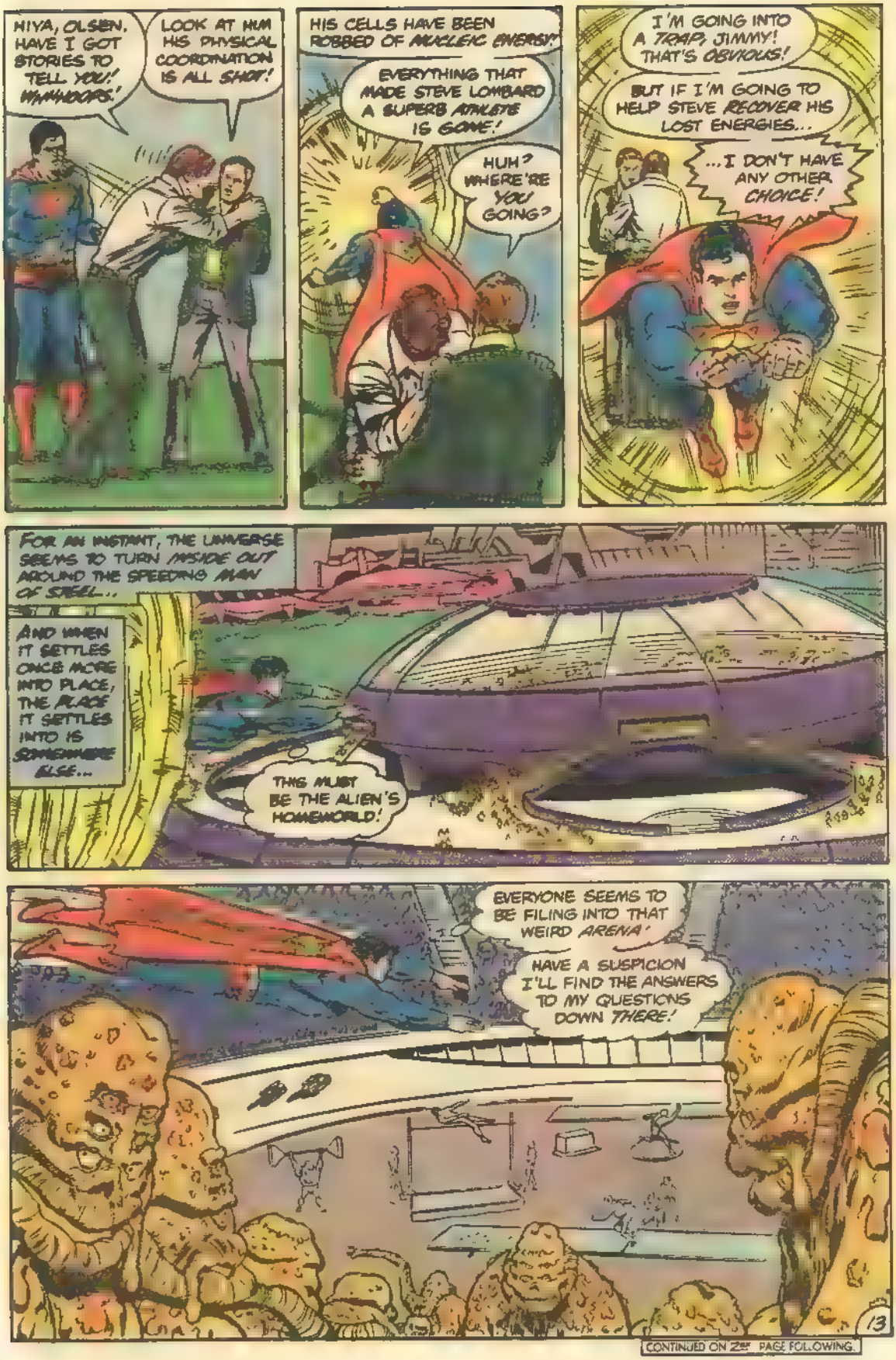
.. AND THEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS
I SYMPATHIZE, MY BROTHER. I, TOO, WAS SHOCKED WHEN I LEARNED OF YOUR EXISTENCE

Y-YOU WERE?!
NATURALLY! UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH YOU--BUT MY LIFE IS ENDANGERED!
YOUR LIFE?

TWO MINUTES LATER...
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG GETTING BACK, STEVE, BUT I HAD TO CALM YOUR PARENTS. THEY WERE VERY-- EH?
JIM, WHERE'S STEVE? AND THAT ALIEN?

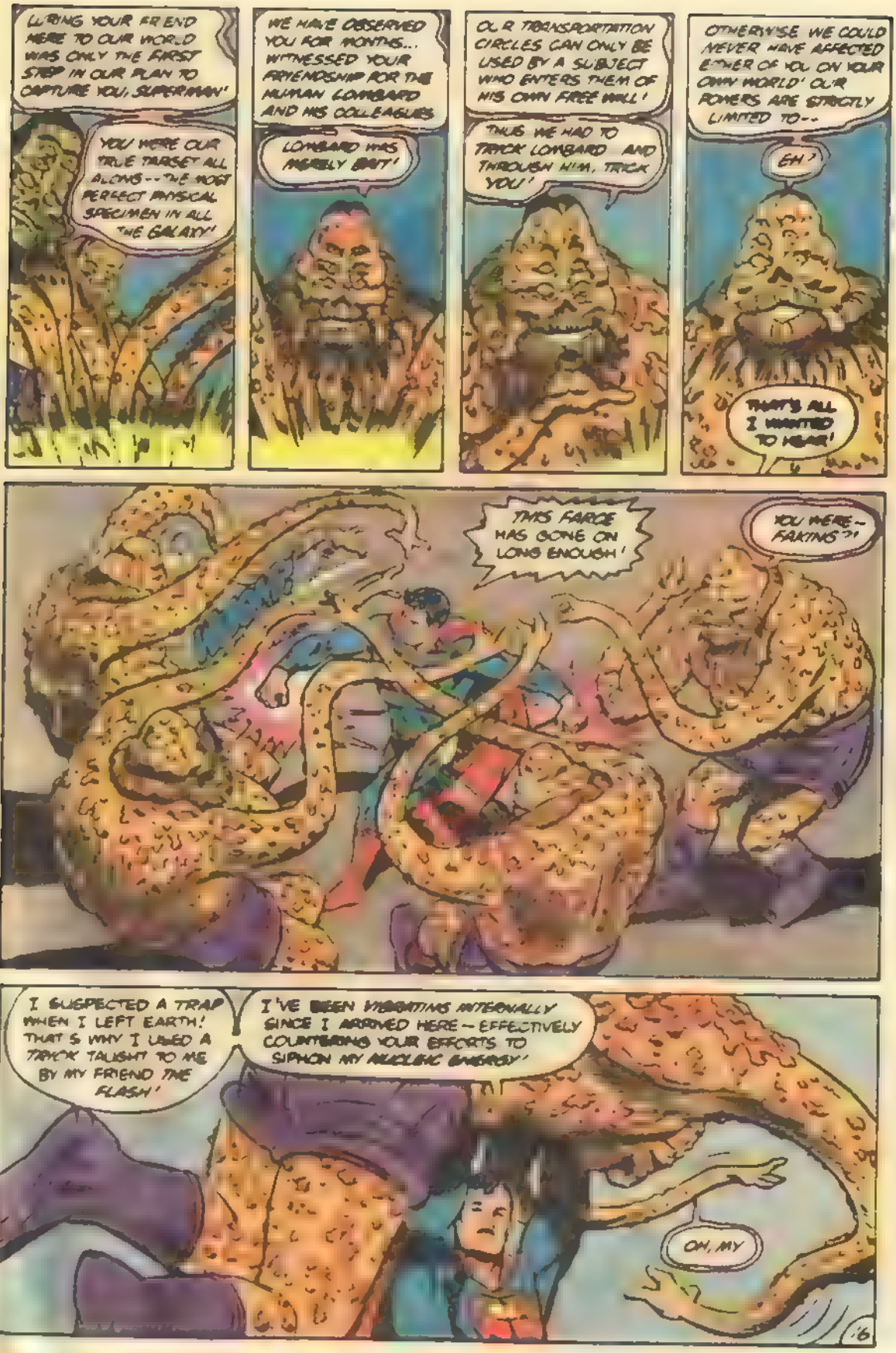

THEY LEFT A COUPLE MINUTES AGO. I TRIED TO STOP THEM...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! COME ON, JIM...
...BUT STEVE WAS ACTING LIKE SOMEONE IN A STATE OF SHOCK!
..WE HAVE TO STOP STEVE BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING RASH!
FAT CHANCE! STEVE IS ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING RASH!
SAY, SUPERMAN, YOU DON'T THINK HE AND THAT ALIEN ARE REALLY RELATED--?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
...EXCEPT THAT STEVE IS UNDER A TERRIBLE EMOTIONAL STRAIN, AND IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE ANY DECISION!
ALSO, IT SEEMS TO ME HIS "ALIEN BROTHER" HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET STEVE IN THAT STATE!
THERE THEY ARE!
STEVE, STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
IT'S NO GOOD--STEVE ISN'T LISTENING! HE'S FOLLOWING THE ALIEN INTO THAT GLOW!
SUPERMAN--GRAB STEVE!
BUT...
SOMEONE'S PULLING STEVE FROM THE "OTHER SIDE" OF THAT GLOWING CIRCLE!
IF I TUG BACK, WITH ALL MY STRENGTH--I'LL TEAR STEVE IN TWO!

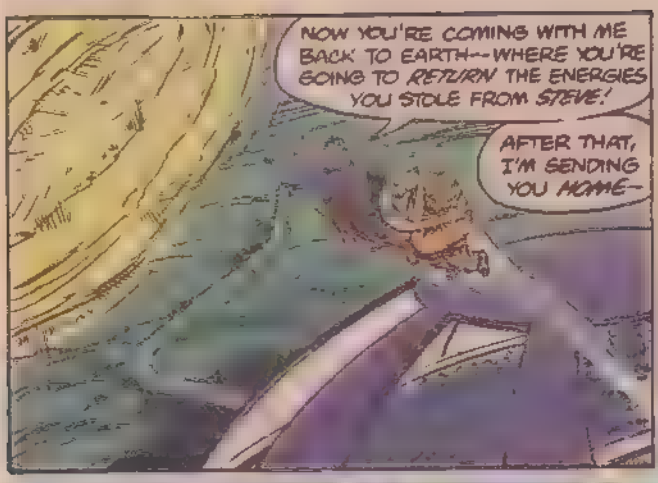

GREAT KRYPTON-- I'VE LOST HIM!
HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM.
...TOO LATE! THE CIRCLE'S GONE!
WOW!.. WHERE'D THEY GO?
I WISH I KNEW! TO SOME OTHER PLANET, SOME OTHER DIMENSION! WHATEVER THAT ALIEN WANTS WITH STEVE
HE'S GOT HIM!
CAN'T YOU MAKE UP ONE OF THOSE CIRCLES YOURSELF --TRACK THEM SOMEHOW?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE'S A SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT--
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
HOLY TOLEDO! IT'S STEVE-- BACK AGAIN, ONLY SECONDS AFTER HE LEFT!
BUT LOOK AT HIM!
12

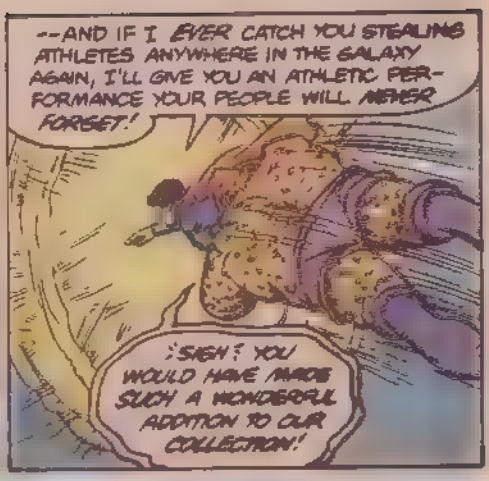

HIYA, OLSEN. HAVE I GOT STORIES TO TELL YOU! WHOOOOPS!
LOOK AT HUM HIS PHYSICAL COORDINATION IS ALL SHOT!
HIS CELLS HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF NUCLEIC ENERGY!
EVERYTHING THAT MADE STEVE LOMBARD A SUPERB ATHLETE IS GONE!
HUH? WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING INTO A TRAP, JIMMY! THAT'S OBVIOUS!
BUT IF I'M GOING TO HELP STEVE RECOVER HIS LOST ENERGIES...
...I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE!
FOR AN INSTANT, THE UNIVERSE SEEMS TO TURN INSIDE OUT AROUND THE SPEEDING MAN OF STEEL..
AND WHEN IT SETTLES ONCE MORE INTO PLACE, THE PLACE IT SETTLES INTO IS SOMEWHERE ELSE...
THIS MUST BE THE ALIEN'S HOMEWORLD!
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE FILING INTO THAT WEIRD ARENA!
HAVE A SUSPICION I'LL FIND THE ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS DOWN THERE!
13
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!
THE WAY YOU DESCRIBED YOUR ILLNESS BACK ON EARTH, I EXPECTED TO FIND YOU IN A HOSPITAL BED--
--NOT PARTICIPATING IN SOME KIND OF ALIEN OLYMPICS!
AH, SUPERMAN, HOW GOOD OF YOU TO ATTEND!
EXCUSE ME JUST A MOMENT WHILE I DO THIS, WILL YOU?
TWANNG
HA! I BELIEVE THAT BEATS THE RECORD!
WHAT RECORD? WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE--
--AND WHAT HAS IT GOT TO DO WITH THE STORY YOU TOLD STEVE?
VERY LITTLE, I'M AFRAID. I LIED TO YOUR FRIEND--
--ABOUT EVERYTHING! I EVEN USED MY SHAPE-CHANGING POWERS TO ALTER THE RESULTS OF THE BLOOD-TEST YOU PERFORMED!
HE'S NO MORE MY BROTHER THAN YOU ARE!
LOOK AROUND YOU! WHAT YOU SEE ARE THE GAMES...
...A CONTINUOUS SPORTING EVENT THAT LITERALLY GIVES MY PEOPLE A REASON TO LIVE!

WITHOUT THE GAMES TO PROVIDE A DISTRACTION FROM THE CRUSHING MONOTONY OF OUR DAILY LIVES--
--MY RACE WOULD DIE OF BOREDOM!
SO YOU BRING OTHER RACES HERE TO YOUR WORLD TO PERFORM FOR YOU--?
OH NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND! WE DON'T BRING OTHERS TO PERFORM FOR US..
WE BECOME THE ATHLETES!
NATURALLY, TO MIMIC THEIR ATHLETIC ABILITY, WE HAVE TO STEAL IT-- AND THUS WE MUST TRICK OUR VICTIMS INTO COMING HERE TO OUR WORLD!
WE FIND THAT SENTIMENT WORKS REMARKABLY WELL!
IT WORKED WITH YOUR FRIEND STEVE LOMBARD, AND IT WORKED EQUALLY WELL WITH YOU!
CONVERGING ON ME-- REACHING WITH THEIR TENTACLES--?
ARRRRGHH!
15


LURING YOUR FRIEND HERE TO OUR WORLD WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN OUR PLAN TO CAPTURE YOU, SUPERMAN!
YOU WERE OUR TRUE TARGET ALL ALONG--THE MOST PERFECT PHYSICAL SPECIMEN IN ALL THE GALAXY!
WE HAVE OBSERVED YOU FOR MONTHS... WITNESSED YOUR FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HUMAN LOMBARD AND HIS COLLEAGUES
LOMBARD WAS MERELY BAIT!
OUR TRANSPORTATION CIRCLES CAN ONLY BE USED BY A SUBJECT WHO ENTERS THEM OF HIS OWN FREE WILL!
THUS WE HAD TO TRICK LOMBARD AND THROUGH HIM, TRICK YOU!
OTHERWISE WE COULD NEVER HAVE AFFECTED EITHER OF YOU ON YOUR OWN WORLD! OUR POWERS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED TO--
EH?
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR!
THIS FARCE HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!
YOU WERE--FAKING?!
I SUSPECTED A TRAP WHEN I LEFT EARTH! THAT'S WHY I USED A TRICK TAUGHT TO ME BY MY FRIEND THE FLASH!
I'VE BEEN VIBRATING INTERNALLY SINCE I ARRIVED HERE--EFFECTIVELY COUNTERING YOUR EFFORTS TO SIPHON MY NUCLEIC ENERGY!
OH, MY
16


NOW YOU'RE COMING WITH ME BACK TO EARTH--WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO *RETURN* THE ENERGIES YOU STOLE FROM *STEVE!*
AFTER THAT, I'M SENDING YOU *HOME--*


--AND IF I *EVER* CATCH YOU STEALING ATHLETES ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY AGAIN, I'LL GIVE YOU AN ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE YOUR PEOPLE WILL *NEVER FORGET!*
:SIGH: YOU WOULD HAVE MADE SUCH A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO OUR COLLECTION!

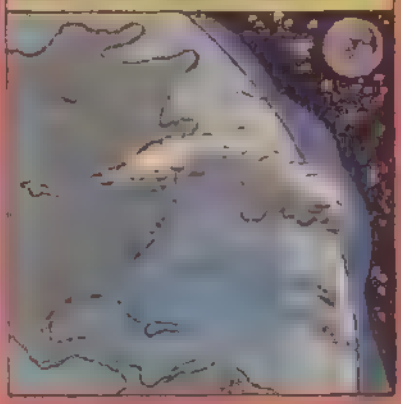
UNTIL SUPERMAN RETURNED WITH THAT WEIRD ALIEN, I WAS JUST A *SHADOW* OF MY FORMER MAGNIFICENT SELF!
TEN SECONDS TO *BROADCAST TIME*, FOLKS! *CLARK*, BETTER GET TO YOUR SEAT!

NEXT ISSUE: AT *LAST!* THE LONG-AWAITED AND MUCH-DEMANDED SEQUEL TO "THE LIFE STORY OF SUPERMAN," WHICH APPEARED IN ***ACTION #500.*** FIND OUT WHAT BECAME OF THE ***SUPERMAN CLONE*** CREATED BY ***LUTHOR***-- THE CLONE WHO NOW SAYS--
"IF I CAN'T BE CLARK KENT, NOBODY CAN!" ON SALE JULY 23! IT'S A ***DATE!***

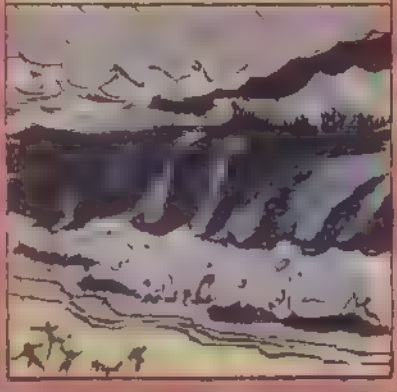
FROM A FALLEN FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FASHIONED A LENS WHICH GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! AFTER LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS WEIGHT, AS WELL, HE DONNED HIS COSTUME OF THE TINY TITAN, BATTLING CRIME AS ...

The ATOM

ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1938, A HURRICANE WITH WINDS GUSTING UP TO 186 MPH STRUCK NEW YORK AND THE NEW ENGLAND STATES WITH BRUTAL FEROCITY.



6 000 HOMES AND BUSINESS BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED 30 000 PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND 600 WERE KILLED



AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS COULD ADD EVEN MORE TO THAT DEATH TOLL!

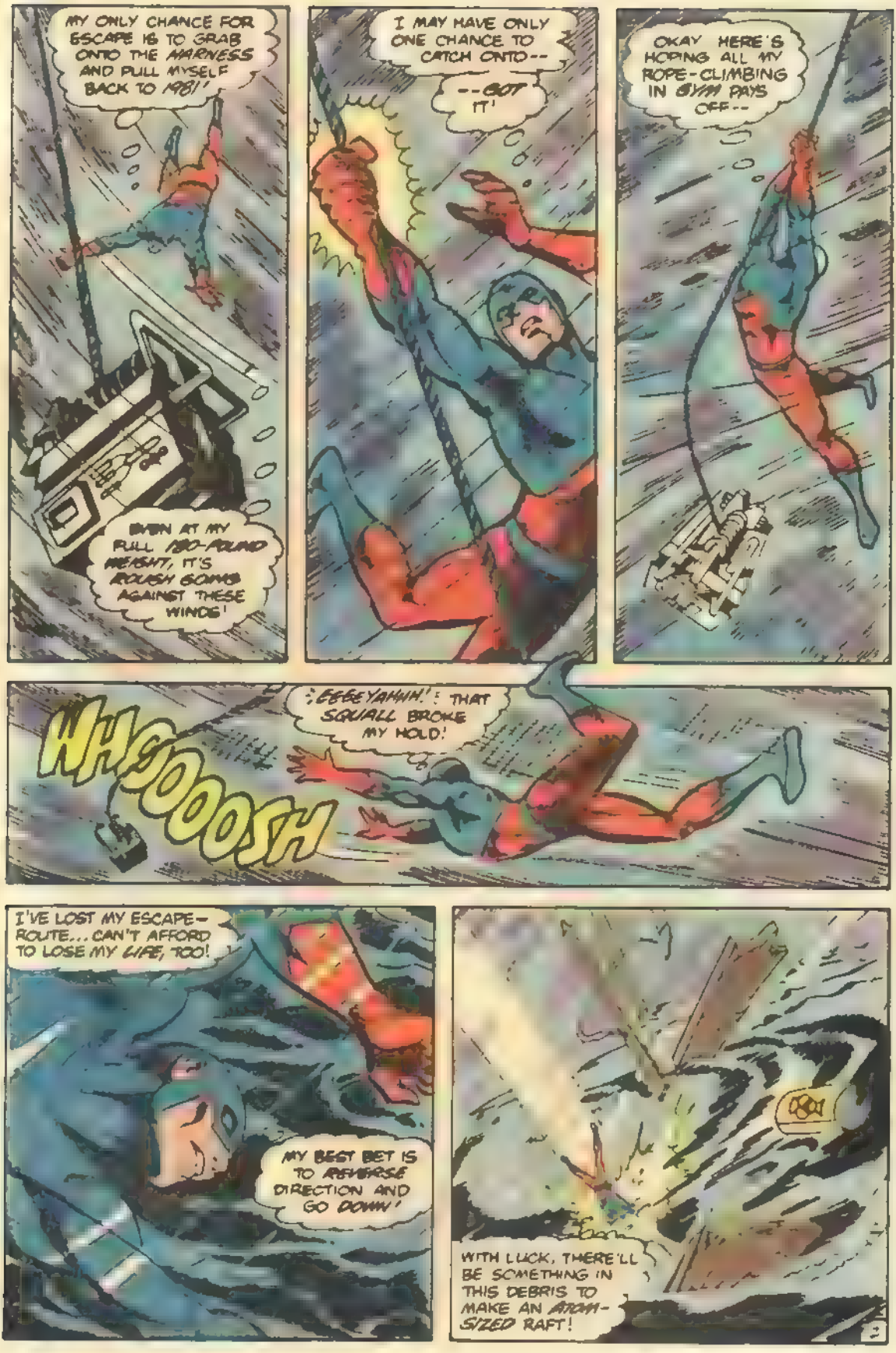
ONE MINUTE I'M FIGHTING THE CALCULATOR IN PROFESSOR HYATT'S LAB IN 1981..

...AND THE NEXT, I'M BEING DROP-KICKED BY THAT COMPUTER CROOK INTO THIS TIME POOL..

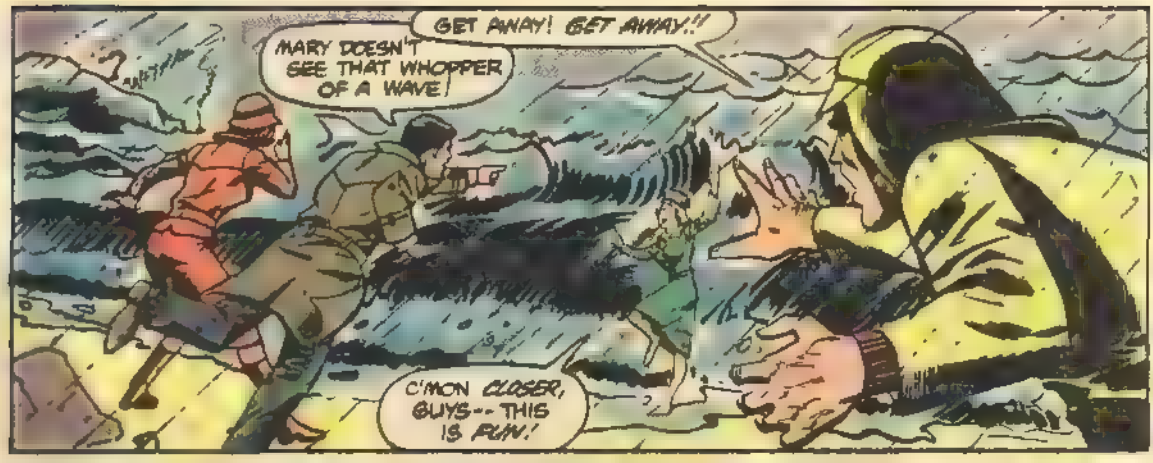
...WHERE THE PROFESSOR IS TESTING HIS HURRICANE HARNESS!

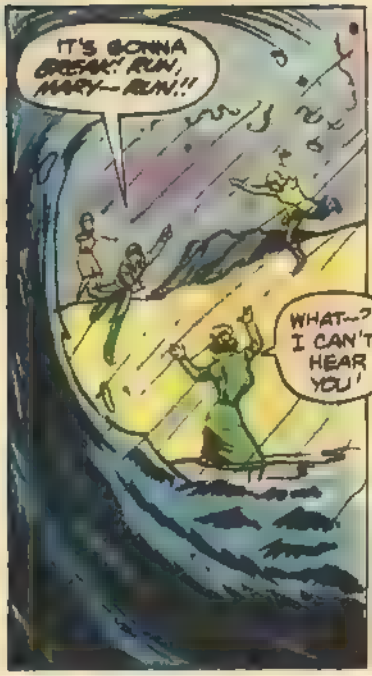
THE EYE OF THE STORM!

BOB ROSAKIS	ALEX SAVIUK	VINCE COLLETTA	COSTANZA	JERRY SERPE	JULIUS SCHWARTZ
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]


MY ONLY CHANCE FOR ESCAPE IS TO GRAB ONTO THE HARNESS AND PULL MYSELF BACK TO 498!
EVEN AT MY FULL 180-POUND WEIGHT, IT'S ROUGH GOING AGAINST THESE WINDS!
I MAY HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE TO CATCH ONTO--
--GOT IT!
OKAY HERE'S HOPING ALL MY ROPE-CLIMBING IN GYM PAYS OFF--
WHOOOSH
"EEEEYAHHH!" THAT SQUALL BROKE MY HOLD!
I'VE LOST MY ESCAPE-ROUTE... CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MY LIFE, TOO!
MY BEST BET IS TO REVERSE DIRECTION AND GO DOWN!
WITH LUCK, THERE'LL BE SOMETHING IN THIS DEBRIS TO MAKE AN ATOM-SIZED RAFT!

TURNING HIMSELF LIGHT-WEIGHT THE SOGGY HERO CLIMBS ONTO HIS "L'EGGBOAT".
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT ALONE OUT HERE-- THERE'S SOMEBODY ON THE BEACH!
BUT WHO WOULD VENTURE OUT IN MISERABLE WEATHER LIKE THIS?
THERE WAS A SENSIBLE REASON FOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO FLY A KITE IN A THUNDERSTORM--
--BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE FLY A BALLOON IN A HURRICANE?
COULD BE HE'S TRYING SOME KIND OF EXPERIMENT-- WATCHING THE WINDS CHANGE DIRECTION.
SAY--
--THERE'S SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM!
MAYBE I COULD HITCH A.. EH? HERE COME SOME MORE HURRICANE-WATCHERS!
HOLY SPIT-- LOOKIT THE SIZE OF THOSE WAVES!
LET'S GET CLOSER TO THEM!
HEY, YOU CRAZY KIDS--GET AWAY FROM HERE-- OR YOU'LL GET HURT!
THE HOWLING WINDS ARE DROWNING OUT THE BALLOONIST'S WARNING!
3

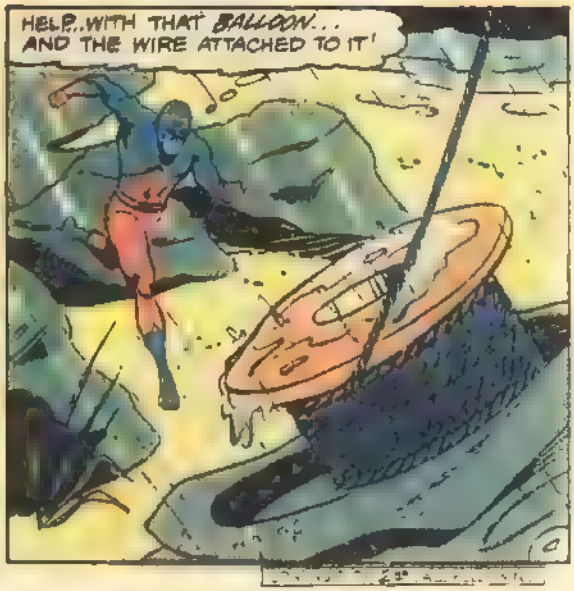

GET AWAY! GET AWAY!!
MARY DOESN'T SEE THAT WHOPPER OF A WAVE!
C'MON CLOSER, GUYS-- THIS IS FUN!


IT'S GONNA BREAK! RUN, MARY-- RUN!!
WHAT--? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

OHHH...
TOO LATE!
KRASH

AS THE RECEDING WATER PULLS THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL INTO THE SEA, THE BALLOONIST GOES AFTER HER...
WITHOUT HIS COAT AND HAT-- HE LOOKS LIKE... MY FATHER-- YEARS AGO!

HE REACHED HER OKAY, BUT HE'LL NEED HELP GETTING HER BACK TO SHORE!


HELP..WITH THAT BALLOON... AND THE WIRE ATTACHED TO IT!

I'LL CLIMB UP THE WIRE...
...CLICK ON MY FULL WEIGHT...
...AND STEER THE BALLOON DOWN TO THEM!
HOLD ON! I'LL COME OUT TO HELP YOU!
NOOOO! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
WHAT WENT UP.. NOW GOING DOWN!
KLIK
KLIK
LOOK--THAT BALLOON! THE ROPE IT'S TIED TO IS OVER THERE--
--IF HE GRABS IT, WE CAN PULL HIM AND MARY IN!
I'LL CHANGE TO MICRO-WEIGHT! THOSE TWO KIDS WILL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL PULLING TWO PEOPLE IN!
THE MAN--HE IS MY DAD-- AND MARY--THE GIRL HE'S SAVING--WILL BE MY MOTHER!
RESCUE PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
5

AS THE TUG-OF-WAR COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL END...
HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS HOW MY BALLOON DID THAT!
YOU SAVED MARY! THANKS, MISTER...
OOOKS! ONCE HE--DAD--LET GO, THERE WAS NOTHING HOLDING THE BALLOON DOWN!
GOT TO TAKE THIS HOT-AIR "ELEVATOR" TO THE GROUND FLOOR AGAIN WITH A WEIGHT-CLICK--
HUNH--? JUST AHEAD OF ME--
--THE HURRICANE HARNESS--SO CLOSE I CAN...
--LEAP ONTO IT!
I BLEW MY FIRST SHOT AT THIS--BUT NO WIND IS GOING TO BLOW ME AWAY TWICE!
6

AND THEN, AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROPE--WARM, DRY NOT!...
THE FIRST IS A NICE PLACE TO VISIT... BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO DIE THERE!
GOOD GOSH! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE CALCULATOR BEING HERE!
PROFESSOR HYATT, YOU CANNOT BLOCK YOUR THOUGHTS FOREVER! ANSWER MY QUESTION...
...WHERE IS YOUR HURRICANE HARNESS?
AS I WAS SAYING, MY SISTER ROSEMARY HAS A RECIPE FOR APPLE STRUDEL THAT COULD MAKE YOUR MOUTH WATER!
BECAUSE OF THE CALCULATOR'S BUILT-IN IMMUNITY TO ME, I CAN'T DEFEAT HIM...
...BUT THE PROFESSOR CAN DO WHAT I CAN'T!
I INSIST, PROFESSOR--THE HURRICANE HARNESS--WHERE IS IT?
ROSEMARY SLICES UP THE APPLES AND SOAKS THEM IN LEMON JUICE...
PROFESSOR, THIS IS THE ATOM! WHEN I SAY THREE, JUMP UP AND HIT THE CALCULATOR'S CHEST-CONTROLS--AS MANY BUTTONS AS YOU CAN!
ONE... TWO...

...THREE!
HEYY--- WHAT IS THIS?!
TAC TAC
TOC TAC
PING
WANG
SPOK
STOP IT, YOU CRAZY OLD COOT!
YOU'LL DESTROY...
EEEYAHH--!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BLOWN A FUSE, CALCULATOR!
YOUR DATA BANK HAS GONE BUST!
YOU'VE BEATEN ME, ATOM-- MY COMPUTER READOUT SAYS THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN NOW!
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE-- A VILLAIN WHO KNOWS WHEN TO GIVE UP!
HA! THE FOOL DOESN'T KNOW THAT SURRENDERING IS PART OF MY PLAN!
WHAT THE COMPUTER OF CRIME CONTEMPLATES WILL HAVE TO WAIT...
...AS WE SWITCH SCENES TO THE HOME OF RAY AND JEAN PALMER, LATER THAT DAY...
LOOK AT THIS STUFF, JEAN! MY DRIVER'S LICENSE... MY ADDRESS BOOK... MY PHOTOGRAPHS... ALL SOAKED!
DON'T WORRY, DARLING--
MY WALLET MAY SHRINK WHEN I DO... BUT IT GETS JUST AS WET AS THE REST OF ME!
--ALL OF IT CAN BE REPLACED!
I GUESS SO! EVEN THIS PICTURE OF MY PARENTS--
--WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN MY PARENTS IF I HADN'T HELPED SAVE THEM!
WHAT A PARADOX!
WHAT IS THE CALCULATOR'S PLAN TO TURN DEFEAT INTO VICTORY? FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE AS AIR WAVE JOINS THE ATOM FOR: "CATASTROPHE BY CALCULATION!"
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